

Since the 1960s, community health centers have grown into the largest unified primary care network in the United States. Today, we have over 1,000 community health centers nationwide, with a total of 53 in Massachusetts alone. In my own district, I am honored to represent 12 community health centers that ably serve the families of the Ninth Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are pioneers in working to reduce health disparities among racial minorities and in recognizing the primary socio-economic factors that help determine health status: the lack of educational and economic opportunity, and substandard housing. They continue this work today, serving 677,000 patients in Massachusetts and 15 million nationally.

The community health center model was revolutionary in another aspect of its mission: community governance. The belief that community members could play a direct role in improving their life circumstances, including health status, was the basis of what we call the "American Community Health Center Movement." The early health centers sprung from "kitchen table discussions" among mothers and fathers and community members about the need for primary care in their neighborhoods. In 2005, health center boards of directors continue to be driven by community members who use their local community health center.

Mr. Speaker, today in this country, we have over 45 million individuals without any sort of health insurance living in both rural and urban areas; accordingly, we need Community Health Centers and the essential services they provide now more than ever. I ask that my Colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the entire Community Health Center Movement on 40 years of helping to reduce health disparities among our most vulnerable populations through the provision of high quality, compassionate and cost-effective primary health care.

#### CONGRATULATING ROBERT FRAGASSO

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Robert Fragasso for all of the great work he has done as the President of the Amen Corner.

Over the past 150 years the Amen Corner has been a well known social club for businessmen and now women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The club is known for its service to help better the community and for the events for its members. There is an annual dinner held to honor the outgoing president. This year's dinner will take place on December 14, 2005 and will honor the outgoing president, Robert Fragasso.

Robert Fragasso, the president of The Fragasso Group, is a certified financial planner. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, graduated from Duquesne University, and did postgraduate work at Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Pittsburgh. He has recently written a book titled, *Starting Your Own Practice*, which has reached national recognition.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert Fragasso for all of the work he has done for the Amen Corner. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual such as Mr. Fragasso.

#### IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH ANN LEEPER

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Elizabeth Ann Leeper who passed from this life on November 5, 2005.

She was a fearless and tireless community activist, who taught her children and grandchildren to always question authority and not be afraid to fight for what they believe in. Known as a political radical, Liz said, "Troublemakers have more fun."

Liz was deeply involved in the local political scene, often being referred to as "The Mayor of New Monterey." She was a charter member of the American Civil Liberties Union and was active in women's issues, the peace movement, and the Democratic Party.

Liz graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a degree in social work and education. She taught elementary and middle school on the Monterey Peninsula for 20 years. After her retirement she continued to be a mentor to anyone seeking advice, especially helping women become aware of their own potentials.

Family was of prime importance to Liz, with three husbands, Norman Godbe, Bruce Harris, and Ed Leeper; two daughters, Kira Godbe and Dana Carnazzo; and four grandchildren, Arye and Blaise Lipman and Alonzo and Tessa Camazzo. Liz adored her grandchildren and was present at each birth. One of their favorite memories of her will be the smells and sounds of grandma making pancakes for them.

The community will miss her greatly, but we know her life will continue to inspire those she touched.

#### HONORING RICHARD WITTEN

#### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Witten, this year's recipient of Columbia University's Alexander Hamilton Medal. This honor is considered the highest tribute an individual in the Columbia College community may receive from the alumni association.

Richard is a proud alumnus, established businessman, published author, generous philanthropist and distinguished member of the Columbia University administration. Richard currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Columbia University Board of Trustees; chairs the Trustees' Committee on Alumni Relations and Development; and is

a member of the board of the Columbia University Investment Management Company. Additionally, Richard is the former chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors.

Professionally, Richard has achieved significant success. Currently he is the senior managing director of the investment firm The Orienta Group. Prior to its formation, Richard began a long and successful career with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1981 and proudly served as a partner and managing director from 1990 to 2002. During his tenure with Goldman Sachs, Richard led numerous committees including the Fixed Income, Currency and Commodities Division Sales Force for the Americas and the Investment Grade Debt Business Unit.

Beyond his professional and alumni activities, Richard is also an author. His first novel, *Divided Loyalties*, was published in 2005 and is based on the World War II experiences of his father-in-law. His second novel, *Filmore East*, is due in 2006 and follows the turbulent events of 1968–1971 through a college student's eyes.

Richard also makes contributions of his time, energy, and money to better our community. He has provided significant funds to renovate Hamilton Hall at Columbia, is a member of the board of directors at the National Museum of American Jewish History, and is a director emeritus of the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation.

Richard is a dedicated husband to his wife Lisa and a devoted father to his children Anne and Alexander. I am proud to call him both my constituent and my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard Witten as he receives the Alexander Hamilton Medal.

#### HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR DENISE MARSHALL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor retiring Erie County Legislator Denise Marshall for her 2 years of service to the residents of the towns of Alden, Elma, Holland, Lancaster, Marilla, Sardinia and Wales.

A life-long resident of Erie County, Denise Marshall was born and raised in Cheektowaga, NY. Graduating in 1986 from Cheektowaga Central High School, Denise attended both Erie Community College and the State University of New York at Buffalo, majoring in Business Administration.

Professionally, Legislator Marshall is founder and president of Marshall Data Solutions, a computer consulting firm specializing in office automation, training and database application development for both business and governmental clients. Beginning her career as a project manager and support representative for KVS Information Systems in Amherst, NY she designed and helped support accounting applications for municipal government clients, traveling throughout the northeastern United States to implement these new technologies and provide training for office personnel.

Legislator Marshall's service, while only 2 years in length, was eventful; her service was perhaps most noteworthy for her desire to effectively serve the residents of her district.